A SYNOPSIS for Ph.D on the Topic

"ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BELONGING TO TRIBAL AREA OF NANDED DISTRICT : A DIAGNOSTIC STUDY AND THE REMEDIAL MEASURES"

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❖ **Introduction:** The present research work aims to focus on English language acquisition of the secondary school students belonging to tribal area of Nanded district through a diagnostic study and the remedial measures.

Talking about the importance of English language, we have been reading or hearing much about it. English is an international language. It is a language of global communication as well as language of opportunity. All the branches of knowledge are available in English. The treasure of knowledge can be opened only with the key called English language. Until and unless, we have the sound knowledge of English, we won't be able to access the vast knowledge which is stored in English. Our former Prime Minister Mr. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stated, "English is the window through which we can peep into the world [1]". Another former P.M. Mr. Lal Bahadur Shashri said, "English is the boat by which we can sail to the world.[2]"

❖ **History of English Language Introduction in India:**

It is widely acknowledged that English language was brought and introduced in India by British colonizers. Its foundation was laid by Macaulay's *'Minute and Education 1835'*.It was introduced in India as a medium of instruction. Since then English was an official language. It is widely spoken, understood and serves as a link language in India. In southern states, English speaking population is much compared to northern English speaking population. Assuming all these facts about the importance of English in academic and practical life, the government of India and Maharashtra has assigned due importance to English in school / college curriculum and syllabus. Like in many other states in India, English language is taught as a second/third language in Maharashtra states. It has been introduced from the Std.I since academic year 2000-2001.In many Marathi and semi Marathi medium schools, English is taught and learnt as a third language after Marathi and Hindi as a first and second language respectively.

❖ **Motivation / Statement of the Problem:**

Although English language is introduced from first standard/grade in schools of Maharashtra state, there are certain questions as to whether the pupils acquire English

language properly? Do they comprehend what is spoken or written? Are they able to communicate in English? These questions are far more serious when we talk about the students belonging to disadvantaged groups of society, having multidimensional problems dwelling in tribal / remote area. The present research topic highlights the problems and diagnoses them. The tribal/remote Kinwat and Mahur Tehsils / blocks of Nanded district in Maharashtra State have socio-linguistic implications. The students belonging to this area are facing many problems as far as English language is concerned. Hence, a diagnostic study and remedial measures are required.

❖ Significance of the Study:

While dealing with the syllabus and textbook of English prescribed for secondary school i.e. Class IX and Class X students face numerous problems. Hence, these problems need to be addressed and the remedial measures should be taken.

Research Gaps Found:

So far so many researcher have been carried out both in English and education which can be summarized as given below:

1) Kanthkumari,S.K. *Development of Strategies for the Improvement of Reading Skills in English at Middle school Level,(1987)* has found some errors in reading English and suggested some Strategies to improve it.

2) Soumini,P. (1984) has designed a course based on communicative approach for the secondary school students.

3) Kapadia,S.T.(1988) has developed and tried out some programs for remedial teaching in English for the post HSSC level students in Gujrat state.

4) Pradhan,S.S.(1990) studied the direct method and bilingual method of teaching English in class X in Cuttuk district of Odisha state and compered their effectiveness in the classroom.

5) Misra, J.N.(1968) has studied the problems and difficulties of language teaching at secondary level.

After going through all these above mentioned research studies, researcher found following research gaps:

1) No research has been done so far on the problems in English language acquisition of secondary school students in the tribal area of Nanded district.

2) The students from tribal area of Nanded district have different socio-economic origins and most of them belong to disadvantaged groups of society. Hence they face

challenges in mastering / acquiring English language skills and no research study has been done to diagnose the errors with possible solutions/suggestions over it.

Therefore the present research work intends to bridge these gaps with remedial measures.

❖ Literature Review / Related Works: An Overview:

An overview of the research already carried out serves two purposes:

1) It gives an overview of the state of art.

2) It helps to identify a gap of knowledge, technique, and solution for the problem that the thesis tackles. This gap of course is a great justification for the work done to fill it.

Various researches have been done on the problems and the solutions in English language acquisition. Some of them can be summarized as given below:

- Buch,M.B.*Effectiveness of Remedial Packages in Learning Spoken English by the low at Secondary Level .(1997)*

  In this volume the researcher has presented effective remedial packages to improve speaking ability. He has tested the efficiency and result of remedial packages in remedial packages in spoken English.
- Puri, S.N. (2014) has undertaken a detailed study on English language acquisition of the learner of secondary, higher secondary and under graduate level in tribal communities in Chandrapur District.
- Sharma,A.K. .*Aspects of English Language Teaching in India(1985)*

  Through, this work the researcher has focused on various perspectives in dealing with English language. The main objective of the research study was to unravel the multidimensional problems, Sociolinguistic implications, technical requirements and situational needs of English language teaching in India.

- Sharma, R.K. *A Study of the problems of teaching English in Bihar, (1986).*

  This is a critical study of position of English in India and problems of teaching learning in the schools and colleges of Bihar state. The research study found that there was a shortage of trained teachers and traditional, conservative bases of teaching English were incommensurate with language needs of the students/learners.

- Walia,A. *An evaluative Study of English at the Secondary Level in Rajasthan,(1981)*

  The researcher studied the reading material used in the class, compared trained teachers with untrained teachers and also evaluated existing textbooks.

❖ Objectives of the Research Study

The principal objectives of the research are:

1) To study socio-linguistic and economical background of the students and its effect on their acquisition of English language.

2) To measure English language acquisition of the secondary school students belonging to tribal area of Nanded district.

3) To interact with the teachers who teach in the selected research area and know the problems in English language teaching.

4) To diagnose various common errors made by the students during learning English language.

5) To conduct reliable, valuable diagnostic test (pre-test) and implement various remedial measures to solve the problems and enrich the knowledge of the students.

6) To provide an insight to the teachers to use remedial teaching at the secondary schools in tribal area of Nanded district.

7) To evaluate the impact of post- test on the selected sample size for the current study.

❖ Hypothesis of the Research:

1) The socio-linguistic and economical aspects of the students of tribal area of Nanded district affect their English language acquisition.

2) Secondary school students in tribal area of Nanded district have certain challenges and are lagging behind in English language.

3) The problems are to be diagnosed and remedial measures need to be undertaken.

❖ Research Methodology:

The present research is based on survey, experiment and factual analysis. To arrive at the conclusion and to solve the problems asserted in hypothesis, various tools of research such as survey, interview, questionnaires, pre-test and post-test will be adopted

.This research work will include field work as well. The researcher will adhere to MLA research methodology.

The nature of research methodology will be as given below:

1) Survey- In order to find out the causes behind the problems faced by the students of secondary school students in tribal, remote **Kinwat and Mahur tehsils** of Nanded district. The researcher will carry out a survey on the socio-economic and linguistic aspects of the students' life.

2)Field visit- Since the research work is based on field visit, the researcher will visit the schools selected for the study and conduct interviews of the teachers concerned. Besides this, there will be interactions with the teachers.

3)Questionnaires- To diagnose and identify the problems in learning English, the researcher willprepare the questionnaires and will get it answered from the students selected for the research.

4)Conducting a Diagnostic Test (Pre- Test)-The pre-test will be conducted in order to identify the nature of errors in English language. This will be a diagnostic study with analysis.

5) Suggesting Remedial Measures- After diagnosing the problems, adequate remedial measures will be suggested and implemented in the research area

6) Conducting A Post Remedial Test-This will be the final stage of research study. It will check the utility of remedial measures and evaluation. The performance of the students will be assessed through it.

Size of Population-

There are 88 secondary schools in Kinwat and Mahur tehsils area and total students studying in these schools are 9000 -10000.

Sample Size-

Considering the total number of schools and students studying in these schools, the research on this entire population will be time consuming as well as lengthy. Therefore, the research will be carried out on 15 schools counting 1000 students. Ten schools from Kinwat tehsils and 05 schools from Mahur tehsils.

❖ Contemporary Relevance and Significance of research:

As no research on English language acquisition of secondary school students dwelling and studying in tribal Kinwat and Mahur tehsils have been carried out so far, this research work can be immensely beneficial. And will give a valuable insight to the

teachers, parents and concerned authority. It will help to fill the research gaps identified.

❖ Scope and Limitations:

Though the research study is limited to only Tribal area of Nanded District i.e. Kinwat and Mahur tehsils, the findings and the remedial measures will be applicable to other area as well.

Therefore, the study is neither all-inclusive nor all-exclusive. The research will be done on some schools of tribal **Kinwat and Mahur tehsils** of Nanded district and the researcher is well aware of this limitation. Nevertheless, the researcher proposes to continue the research in the same area in the days to come.

❖ Tentative Chapter Scheme

Chapter-I: Introduction:

This chapter will focus on the importance of English language as a language of access and opportunities. It will briefly state the history of English language in India.

Chapter -II: Motivation /Statement of the problem:

The second chapter will assert the problems of the research area. It will answer the question why the problem is worthwhile looking at? What is involved? It will also tell about the need to undertake research in the area.

This chapter will also focus on various research gaps which the researcher found after exploring some research works carried in this field. Hence researcher will put forward major research topics existing and will come up with some research gaps.

Chapter-III: Literature Review/ Related Works:

Third chapter will deal with the research works already done in the related subjects with their objectives and findings. It will help to co-relate the study undertaken. In short this chapter is a contribution section.

Chapter-IV: Objectives and Hypothesis of the Research Study: Fourth chapter will form the core of the thesis. The objectives and the hypothesis of the research will be stated here.

Chapter-V: Research Methodology: This chapter will explain how the research would be done. It will give the idea to the readers about the tools, techniques to carry out the research.

Chapter-VI: Experiments, surveys, Interviews, Questionnaires, Diagnostic Tests, Remedial Tests and Data Analysis: This chapter is a backbone of the entire research work. It clearly indicates what is diagnosed? Which methods were adopted? How the data is interpreted? What remedial measures should be taken? What changes are observed after remedial measures?

Chapter VII: Conclusion: The last chapter will summarize the thesis and state the scope and limitation of the research study. However this chapter will emphasize the need for the future work. The research work will illuminate the path ahead. Thus the research gives rise to recommendations and end with a positive note.

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1) Surveys

2) Interviews

3) Questionnaires

4) Diagnostic Tests (Pre-Tests)

5) Post-Tests

Secondary Sources

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7) Wikipedia.org.

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